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October 26, 1935

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Insect Control
(Annual Report)

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The Forester,

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Reports covering insect conditions on each forest of this Region have been received from the Supervisors and a brief summary of these reports, which will give you a picture of the conditions in the Region as a whole, follows:

Due to drought conditions throughout the Region for the past several years, there has been a considerable build-up in the insect population on most of the forests. During the past year, however, precipitation was more nearly normal and we confidently expect that the insect situation will in turn again become normal, at least over most of the Region.

In spite of the build-up in insect population, conditions on the following forests are reported as normal: Apache, Coconino, Coronado, Gila, Sitgreaves and Tonto.

The Santa Fe reports the insect situation as normal, except for the tent caterpillar infestation on the Pecos Watershed which continues to be much of a nuisance, but as yet no permanent damage has been done to the aspen stands.

The Carson reports that the tent caterpillar infestation which, as you know, has prevailed on this forest for a number of years, is now confined mostly to the higher aspen stands on the Amarilla Division. In some places, notably on the Canjilon and Vallecitos District, it was worse this year than last, and it may be well to mention the fact that this infestation has spread to private lands in the vicinity of Chama, and probably northward into Colorado. While the tent caterpillar attacks are spectacular and extremely annoying to campers, recreationists and local people, so far no serious damage has resulted from their depredations.

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The spruce budworm infestation on the Carson is reported as worse this year than for the past several years. In the head of San Antone drainage there are large areas where much of the foliage has been stripped from the white and Douglas fir. This infestation has, as you know, been going on for a long period of years. While some damage has no doubt been done in the fir type, there is nothing alarming in the situation.

The situation as regards bark beetles is considered normal.

On the Cibola Forest the infestation of the spruce budworm near the head of Red Canyon still continues, but is not alarming. Ips infestations reported last year have subsided somewhat. There is still an occasional tree killed by Ips on the Manzano District and there is a small area of Ips infestation showing up on the Big Chief sale on Mt. Taylor. This situation is, however, normal, since now and then we get a small amount of kill by Ips when conditions are favorable for the insects.

The situation on the Prescott Forest continues to be somewhat alarming. During the past year considerable insect damage was done on the forest. It varies with the location and seems to tie in closely with the past history of insects on a given area. On the area adjoining Prescott to the west and south damage is light. This, it is believed, is due primarily to the fact that insect control work in the past covered this area, and to the insect control work which has been done in the past three years in connection with twig blight work. Around the borders of the area worked in connection with the twig blight infestation insect damage is fairly heavy, and increases on the areas extending further back from the area worked by the twig blight crews. While no definite estimates have been made as to the exact amount of damage that has been done on the forest during the year, Assistant Supervisor McNelty from observations, makes the following estimate:

Location	Area (Acres)	Number of Trees
Horsethief Basin & Crown King Basin	14,000	4,000
Towers Mtn. and Minnehaha	3,000	500
Turkey Creek and Big Bug	6,000	1,000
Lynx Creek	8,000	500
Senator & Groom Creek Areas	10,000	400
Copper Basin & Granite Basin	6,000	300
Camp Wood	8,000	600
Mingus Mountain	8,000	300
Pine Mtn.	4,000	200
Totals	67,000	7,800

A plan for control work with ERA crews will be initiated shortly after November 1. It is planned to cover all heavily infested areas in the Prescott just as soon after November 1 as the crews can be organized.

On the Crook Forest a rather severe outbreak of barkbeetles occurred on an area of about 4000 acres on the north side of the Final Mts. The stand here is almost entirely pole size material between 4 and 8 to 10 inches in diameter. The Supervisor estimates that there is an average of 200 infested trees per section. Assistant Supervisor McNelty of the Prescott and Forester Salton of this office are scheduled to make a trip to this area within the next few days to assist in initiating control measures which are definitely scheduled to be undertaken from Camp F-16-A located nearby.

Conditions on the Lincoln National Forest during the past few years have been favorable for a build-up in the Ips population and this has occurred in general throughout the forest. On the Guadalupe Division of the Lincoln, drought conditions have been exceptionally severe and thousands of ponderosa pine trees running all the way from saplings to large veterans have died during the past couple of years. Primarily, this was due to drought; however, Ips have at least to some extent been a contributing factor. No indication of other beetles than Ips has been found in the Guadalupes. With the return of more nearly normal precipitation, it is felt that the condition here will again become normal.

Throughout the Sacramento Division of the Lincoln, Ips are found to be very active. This was especially noticeable on Cox Canyon and on the Pennsco wherever any cutting had taken place. The damage was largely confined to small areas of saplings adjacent tocutting; however, in the vicinity of Camp 32-N, located at Mayhill, hundreds of trees have been killed. This camp is located in the lower edge of the ponderosa pine type and no doubt the trees attacked were badly weakened by drought. We have been somewhat fearful that the Ips would spread to our timber stand improvement work on Sixteen Springs Canyon and cause a heavy loss in stands which have been thinned and pruned. So far, the Ips have confined their attacks on this area to the down material, and it is hoped that we may get by without loss of crop trees. As a precaution on this area, we are going to continue to peel the poles cut in thinning operations all winter.

During the past summer, Asst. Entomologist J. E. Patterson and Jr. Entomologist A. S. West of the Berkeley Sub-station travelled across the Coconino and Kaibab forests of this Region in a trip from Prescott to Berkeley. They made a report at the end of the trip, and the following as regards the Kaibab North is quoted from their report:

"Infestations in the ponderosa pine are due mainly to the Black Hills beetle, Dendroctonus ponderosae. At the present time there are only scattered infestations of this beetle. No grouping is evident and the infestation is in an endemic state, although infested trees can be found throughout the forest. Two other Dendroctonus beetles, D. approximatus and D. barberi, are found sparingly and usually associated with the Black Hills beetle. Dendroctonus ponderosae has been responsible for vast losses in these stands. Ring records on partially attacked trees which survived dates one such epidemic in the last decade of the last century. This epidemic resulted in great thinnings in the forest where thousands of trees were killed which later fell and rotted. The young forest in these openings shows a maximum age of about 40 years. Another epidemic occurred in the early twenties of the present century. We have an accurate history of this epidemic which was brought under control by artificial means. During its course, however, many hundred of trees were killed and immense dead areas were created. This beetle shows a marked periodicity in its epidemics and it will pay to keep a close watch on its activities in order to detect any epidemic trends and to control its depredations before they reach destructive proportions."

Upon receipt of the report, Mr. J. M. Miller, who is in charge of the Berkeley Sub-station, was written further in the matter and the following is quoted from his reply:

"I do not believe that the D. ponderosae infestations on the Kaibab were considered to be very serious or threatening. Apparently this barkbeetle has been very quiet for a number of years but a small nucleus of the infestation has hung on principally in the vicinity of Jacobs Lake. It would be an interesting project to clean up these small centers to see if the infestation can be entirely eliminated from the Plateau. This result apparently has been accomplished on the Walhalla Plateau in the Park, but it is doubtful whether an extermination project would be entirely warranted on the Kaibab if the economic phases alone are considered. It would be expensive to clean up the few scattered trees that are carrying the present infestation. It might, however, be worth considering as part of a CCC camp program."

Apparently, there is nothing very serious in the situation on the Kaibab North at the present time, although because of past experiences we are somewhat concerned about the situation. If at all possible, control measures will be taken in connection with the ECW program. We are in hopes that a camp will be obtained for the Kaibab North in 1936.

South of the Grand Canyon insect conditions are reported as normal. There are a few scattered trees on the Grand Canyon Division attacked by Ips, but this is not of an epidemic nature.

From the foregoing it will be seen that there are one or two situations that are rather serious, viz: the Prescott and the Crook. Here we are undertaking control measures. The next most serious situation is probably on the Lincoln where the build-up in the Ips population is causing us some worry. Here we are continuing to peel the poles cut in stand improvement work instead of discontinuing the practice on October 1, as in past years. While the Kaibab North situation at present is not alarming, still the Kaibab has had a series of insect epidemics lasting over a period of many years, and the situation here will be observed with care and, if possible, control measures will be inaugurated if a CCC camp is secured next year.

Very truly yours,

FRANK C.W.POOLER, Regional Forester,

By: Acting
M. M. CHENEY